



The delightful art of Maria Latorre's students is on display

An exhibit of a most unusual nature is on display at Caya Frere Fredericus 42 in Oranjestad. This is the studio of noted artist and teacher Maria Latorre, who has been coaching young fledgling artists in Aruba for the last twenty-six years.

Maria considers artistic talent "a gift from God" and loves to discover and develop it, particularly in Aruba's youth. Most of her artists range from the ages of seven to nineteen, with a sprinkling of adults, and their works are fresh, uninhibited, and a revelation.

Her present exhibit of "Expresiones Plasticas" or "Visual Expressions" contain seventy-eight works by fourteen young artists and three adult students. The mediums employed vary from crayons and colored markers to wax, acrylic, and pastels. The techniques used run the gamut from impressionistic, to figurative and abstract. The charming creations of the younger children show a freedom and whimsy, the more polished works of some of the older students display remarkable skill and sophistication. In particular comes to mind the remarkable pastels of eighteen-year-old Vincen Wu, who has produced some stunning pieces. The acrylic painting of Aldrich Croes recreates the landscapes of Aruba both above ground and under the sea, and they are simply breathtaking.

Even at nineteen years old, Bryan Tromp reveals a charming bit of whimsy with his "Koala in a Car" painting and young Bryan Croes indulges his fantasy in a pastel of the horse he wishes he had.

Many of the children's paintings and drawings depict fantasy worlds, and it makes for a very enchanting exhibition. Sisters Tara Ang, aged seven and Alexa Ang, ten years old, definitely seem to have an eye for the underwater world, and give it a child's imaginative interpretation. All of the children display a uniqueness, and individuality of expression is strongly encouraged by Maria Latorre, who is particularly noted for her portrait work.

The exhibit will continue through December 22, from 10:00 am in the morning to noon and again from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the evening. The studio is located on the outskirts of Oranjestad, in an area known as Makiki Kavel; directions and information can be obtained by calling telephone 583-4438 or 743-6075.